

# Merrick County Board Minutes



## **August 26, 2014**

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 9:08 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Graves, Helgoth, Jefferson, Kucera, Hahn, Weller and Wiegert present. Also present was County Attorney Lynelle Homolka.

Moved Kucera, second Graves to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:08 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil and The Palmer Journal and on the Merrick County website. Proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's Office. Copies of the agenda were mailed to each Supervisor and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

Chairman Wiegert declared the meeting was preceded by publicized notice and having acknowledged and identified the location of the posting of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act, called the meeting to order and in open session at 9:08 a.m.

**Agenda:** Moved Jefferson, second Kucera to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Minutes:** Moved Kucera, second Jefferson to approve the August 12, 2014 minutes as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Meeting reports:** Hahn attended the Senior Center meeting; Graves had a NIRMA conference call on Monday, August 25, 2014; Weller attended the Bader Park meeting and the County Planning and Zoning meeting in Palmer at the Village Hall; Helgoth attended the Central Nebraska Community Service meeting; and the 4H Building meeting; Kucera attended the County Planning and Zoning meeting in Chapman and Kucera said that Mark Johnson with TransCanada was at a team roping this last weekend and presented money for sponsorship; Wiegert attended the 4H Building meeting last Monday and attended both the County and Village Planning and Zoning meetings in Chapman.

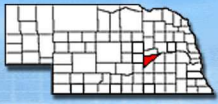
**Officials report:** County Attorney Homolka requested a new contract for juvenile detention with Lancaster Detention Center. Their rate is cheaper at \$308.00 a day. County Clerk Wichmann said that there will be a flu clinic on October 20, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the courthouse and everyone attending must present their insurance cards. Extension Educator, Tammy Stuhr, presented the Board with a tentative timeline for the 4H building project. They are contacting people with new arena to get operating costs. Stuhr said there were two 4Her's that were chosen for the Robert Hillestad Textile Gallery and their projects will be on display at their museum. To have two out of ten be chosen is quite an honor. They were Jenna Umsted and Brittany Jefferson.

**SCALES Agreement:** The addendum to the SCALES Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Law Enforcement Services with Adams, Buffalo, Hall, Dawson, and Phelps Counties and Cities of Hastings, Kearney, Grand Island, Holdrege, Aurora, Lexington, and Cozad was presented to the Board for approval and the Chairman's signature. County Attorney Homolka said this was a good program, but the original of the agreement was not attached to the addendum and so it says nothing about the \$1,000.00 annual fee. Sheriff Campbell said that he thought there was a page missing and the gentleman he needs to talk to was unavailable yesterday. There is an annual fee of \$1,000.00 that everyone pays and this is used to buy specialized equipment that is very expensive and can be used by everyone after they pay the \$4,500.00 buy in and to set up annual training. This is a mutual aide agreement between agencies for extra man power when and if needed, accessibility to the specialized equipment. Moved Weller, second Kucera to table this until the next board meeting with the full agreement. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Electrical bid:** A bid for \$1,024.00 was presented from Helgoth Electric to fix the lights in the Treasurer's vault. Moved Graves, second Hahn to approve the bid from Helgoth Electric for \$1,024.00 to fix the lights in the Treasurer's vault. Roll Call: Ayes: Jefferson, Kucera, Hahn, Weller, Graves, and Wiegert. Nays: None. Abstain: Helgoth.

**RESOLUTION 2014-17:** RESOLUTION 2014-17 was presented authorizing the foreclosure and sale of Tax Sale Certificates. County Attorney Homolka said that each certificate should have its own resolution. Moved Graves, second Hahn to table RESOLUTION 2014-17 until the next meeting and to have separate resolutions for each tax sale certificate. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Region III:** Region III have sent a revised EPC letter of Agreement that changes the primary facility to Richard Young Hospital and Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital as the principal overflow facility. Homolka recommends approval of the letter of agreement. Moved Kucera, second Graves to approve the revised Region



# Merrick County Board Minutes



III EPC letter of Agreement that changes the primary facility to Richard Young Hospital and Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital as the principal overflow facility. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**4H building project:** Brad Wells has talked to Chris Anderson as to where they were on the water project for the fair grounds. Anderson feels the quote he received was too high but they are going to go ahead with designs. Nebraska Christian is just water and not sewer but the 4H Building project will be water and sewer. Wells said that they need to work out the financial agreement and a time frame. Extension Educator Tammy Stuhr had given the Board a copy of the tentative time line.

**Payroll:** NACO Director, Larry Dix went over LB560 with the County Board. There are a couple of reasons for LB 560. If an employer is going to be altering wages they must give the employees a 30 day notice and now the employers are required to provide an itemized statement with the payroll. There are some counties that preapprove hours and while it may not be illegal it is not good business practice. Some counties have already corrected their payrolls and other are working on getting it corrected. The new law took effect July 18, 2014 but it will take some time for the counties to get in compliance. Clerk Wichmann has been in contact with MIPS about their new Time and Attendance system and Dix said that Boone County was one of the County's that was using it and did the trial for MIPS. Employees can check in and out electronically, by the internet, thumb prints, phone, etc. This feeds into the payroll system in the Clerk's Office. Clerk Wichmann said that she had been in contact with Boone County and was going to go and see how it works. Clerk Wichmann provided three different ways that three other counties are or are going to use to correct the same problem that Merrick County has. Clerk Wichmann said that the one from Seward County is the best one because it will be the least hurtful to the employees. Some of the counties just told their employees this is what we are going to do and that was it. One county had been wrote up in their audit because they were not in compliance. Seward County is backing their payroll up by four days starting with the October 2014 payroll and doing that until February 2015 when their payroll will be from the 16th to the 15<sup>th</sup> and that will be the hours that are turned in on their time sheets and what they will be paid for. Homolka said she thought it would be good practice to go to twice a month payroll but that would mean that the County Clerk would have to hire an extra person to help with the added work load. Weller said he was not in favor of the hiring of another person and besides there would be no where to put an extra person in the Clerk's Office. Weller wanted to know if they could back the payroll up by two days instead of four and Wichmann said she would just have to redo the calendar that showed the four days and it would take longer to get into compliance. County Attorney Homolka asked if the county would be in compliance by the next audit and by doing two day the county will not be in compliance. Wichmann will just have to tell the auditors they are working their way up to compliance and explain how it is being done. Moved Weller, second Graves to go with the Seward County model but back the payroll up by two days instead of four. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**RESOLUTION 2014-18:** Emergency Manager Tom Smith said that RESOLUTION 2014-18 authorizes the Region 44 Emergency Manage to enter into an IPAWS-OPEN MOA on behalf of Merrick County. IPAWS is Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. It does not cost anything to enter into this agreement. There is a cost of \$3,500.00 and that is for using ipods. This system will keep the county personnel up on alerts. Moved Weller, second Helgoth to approve RESOLUTION 2014-18 authorizing the Region 44 Emergency Manage to enter into an IPAWS-OPEN MOA on behalf of Merrick County. IPAWS is Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2014-18 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing. Smith said he is trying to create a mass notification and this is similar to what Hamilton and Hall Counties have now. Smith said there used to be a Local Emergency Planning Committee and they deal with hazardous material situations. Members would consist of business and community members. He would like to have a LEPC meeting sometime in December. There is grant money available for training. Smith is helping the Clark's lake people in getting a siren. There is grant money that would cover 75% but the siren would have to be sponsored by the County or the Village of Clarks for the other 25%. The people by Silver Creek are still concerned about the island in the river there. Smith said he has that taken care of.

**CPNRD/Interlocal Agreement:** Weller said that he had someone from the Central Platte NRD coming but they could not make it today, so he would like this tabled until a CPNRD representative can be present.



# Merrick County Board Minutes



**NIRMA support:** Chairman Wiegert read a letter of endorsement for the re-election of Jim Graves to the NIRMA Board. Moved Weller, second Kucera to approve and sign the letter of endorsement for the re-election of Jim Graves to the NIRMA Board. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Inventories:** The 2014 inventories from the Surveyor, Road Department, Emergency Manager, and the Sheriff were presented to the Board for approval. Moved Graves, second Helgoth to approve the 2014 inventories from the Surveyor, Road Department, Emergency Manager, and the Sheriff. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**August 2014 payroll:** The August 2014 payroll was presented for approval: General: Gross: \$102,774.65 Net: \$74,630.48 Roads: Gross: \$46,605.82 Net: \$31,686.95 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$2,742.67 Net: \$1,895.92. Moved Weller, second Kucera to approve the August 2014 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Adjourn:** Moved Helgoth, second Kucera to adjourn at 12:00 noon. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk